

A

Weekly Review

O F T H E

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers* and *Petty-Statefmen*, of all Sides.

Saturday, March 11. 1764.

TIS strange that we cannot bear to hear the Truth, if the Fact it self does not please us; That we should be willing rather to feel than hear of the Greatness of our Enemies.

Me thinks having the true Picture of our Adversary should be useful to instruct us in our needful Preparations. The *French* are generally full of Boasts and Rhodomontades, to make the World believe them greater than they are; our People full of Banter and Lampoon, to make them seem less than they are.

Those are two Cheats equally hurtful to us; the First to Terrifie us; the Last to make us too Easie, and consequently too Secure: 'Tis equally Dangerous for us to be terrified into Despair, and Bully'd into more Terror of our Enemies than we need, or to be so Exalted in Conceit of

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our own Force, as to Undervalue and Contemn the Power which we cannot Reduce.

'Tis an allow'd Maxim in War, Never to Contemn the meanest Adversary; and it must pass with me for a Maxim in Politicks, Not to Contemn the Power that is so far from Mean, that 'tis a Match for half the World.

On this account, I think my Endeavour to set them in a true light, must be a piece of Service to the whole Nation. If any shall pretend to say, I make them appear too Formidable, I return, I am too sorry the Truth is too Terrible to be told; I am sorry 'tis too True, that the *French* Power is as great as I have Represented it.

This Paper had never been begun, if we had not resolv'd to go thorow with every needful Part of History, and tell every needful Truth, whether the Reader will be pleas'd or no; for those People who don't like the Truth, we must be Content they don't like this Undertaking.

We might spend a great deal of Time in Exposing the unhappy Temper of the *English*, and Exploding the Weakness of that common Practice, which so much prevails, That People do not love to believe, nor to hear, the Truth which does not please them. But as the Distemper seems too hard to Cure, the Attempt is too fruitless for this Work, in which, if possible, we resolve to keep up to the first Design. Not to trouble the World with any thing which it not worth their while to hear.

We cannot therefore quit the Design of giving the World a true Map of the Greatness of the *French* Power. Wise Men will make a good use of it, Knaves may do their worst; and as for Fools 'tis no Matter what they say or do int his Case, or any other.

The former Paper has view'd them in *Germany* and in *Spain*, on the *Rhine*, on the *Danube*, and on the *Tajo*.

We are next to view them in *Flanders*. Here they plaid with the Confederates the last Year, and sacrific'd the Campaign to their greater Designs on the Banks of the *Danube*; and as they had laugh't at the little Progress the *Dutch* Armies could possibly make, they stood and look'd on while these took a few small Towns, as being far short of an Equivalent for what they knew they should have Opportunity to do in *Germany*.

Yet,

Yet, even in *Flanders*, they now Talk big, and threaten to have a more numerous Army there than the Confederates, and to open the Campaign before them; I do not say I believe the first, but the last is likely enough to be true, and has been the general Practice of the *French*, and by which they have always had the Advantage of the Confederates.

In order to this, they have chang'd their Generals, and the Marechal de Villars, a Politick and Enterprizing Man, is join'd there in the room of M. de Boufflers, to signify to the World, that something Extraordinary is expected on that Side.

The *French* and *Flemish* Army on this Side, cannot be so little as 120000 Men, if we include the numerous Garrisons which they are obliged to keep in the many strong Towns which they have to Defend on the Frontiers; and this is apparent in that if we allow a competent number of Men for the Towns of *Dunkirk*, *Newport*, *Ostend*, the Forts about *Sluys*, and *Sas Van Ghent*, *Antwerp*, *Namure*, *Charleroy*, *Dinant*, *Luxemburg*, &c. they cannot bring above 70000 Men into the Field.

That all these Towns must have Continual and Considerable Garrisons, is known to all Men that know any thing of their Situation; and abundance of other Places must have smaller Numbers; from whence I generally reckon, that near half the Army, the Foot especially, are always obliged to remain in Garrison.

This is a strange Demonstration of the Number and Strength of the *French* Power, and I wish the Confederates, who by the exact Management of the *Dutch*, are here in the best Posture, do not suffer by some suddain Erruption, before they can take the Field, and so have a Summers Work cut out to their Hands before they begin the Campaign.

From this side of the World let us View their Sea Preparations; these we are now told are to be very Considerable, and the *French* King has Issued 18 Millions of Livers for his Marine Service.

I confess my self loth to enter into our Sea Conduct, having no Design to make this Paper a Satyr upon the Management of the *English* Fleet; But whence is it that we being every where Masters of the Sea, are yet not able to prevent the *French* carrying their Arms into the remotest Parts of *America*?

Indeed I reserve this Head to a Digression I purposed to make, with Relation to the *American* Empire of the *Spaniards*, but I cannot omit it here, that it is a most unaccountable Error in the Conduct of some People in the World, that either *French* or *Spaniards* have any manner of Trade in those Parts; that the Communication between them and *Europe* is not wholly Interrupted, and their Commerce entirely Destroy'd.

The Reason why the *French* are resolv'd to appear with a great Fleet this Summer, contrary to the late Practices of that Nation, seems to me very plain.

The Conjunction of the *Germans* with the Duke of *Savoy* in *Italy*, has made it next to impossible for the *French* to Recruit their Army in the *Millaneze* otherwise than by Sea, and as he sees plainly the Influence the Confederate Fleet had on the *Italian* Princes, was too Considerable to be slighted; and that had they staid any Time in the *Mediterranean*, it would, in all probability, have alter'd the Face of Affairs there; so his having a Royal Navy in those Seas must be of exceeding use to him.

First, as it will Continue and Secure the Recruiting his Army, which is of the last Consequence.

Secondly, as it will Awe and Restrain the petty Princes and States of *Italy*, who they find too wavering in their Resolutions, from Declaring themselves in Favour of the House of *Austria*.

Thirdly, As it may be a Means to keep the Confederate Fleet out of the *Mediterranean*; since if the *French* Unite all their Naval Force in the *Streights*, 'tis question'd, while the Affair of *Portugal* is in hand, whether we can venture to part with Ships enough to Engage a *French* Fleet of Ships and Gallies so large as they now talk of.

The *French* may be allow'd to talk of a little more than they'll do, and therefore we will take the Account a little to pieces.

They tell us they will have in the *Levant* Six and fifty Ships of the Line of Battel, Thirty six Gallies, Eighteen light Frigates, besides Bombs, &c.

If they have Fifty Men of War and Thirty six Gallies, we must be above sixty Sail to pretend to go thither; if we do
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not, let the *Venetian* and the *Genoese* Declare for the Emperor at their Peril.

If we send Sixty Sail to the *Streights* we must have Forty Sail upon the Ocean to Guard the *Portuguese* and our home Trade; and whether we can do this Time, must shew.

In short, such a Fleet of *French* in the *Mediterranean* will keep all that part of the World in Awe; the Governours of the *Spanish* Islands will be absolutely Curb'd, the People Suppress'd, *Naples* Secur'd from Revolts, and *Sicily* from Innovation, the Grand Duke of *Tuscany* Byass'd, the *Genoese* Aw'd, and the *Venetians* Ruin'd.

The *French* Power at Sea so near their own Door, has vast Advantage of Ours which is remote; 'tis Dangerous to be brought thither, Difficult to be Maintain'd, and if it should meet with a Brush, next to impossible to be Repair'd.

Under these Advantages the *French* appear at Sea in the *Mediterranean*, and if he has thought it worth his while to Disburse Eighteen Millions for this Service, he has doubtless the Prospect of those Things in his View, and I wish I may be in the Wrong when I Express my self Anxious about the Success.

But as these Sheets have no Concern in the Issue of these Matters, so the present Inference is most exactly pointed at the Argument before us; the Greatness of the Enemy is too Conspicuous, that has Eighteen Millions of Livers at any time ready, when his Designs are so laid as to make it Needful, that has it only to consider what he is to do, and never wanting of the Means.

Mercur Scandale :

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ADVICE from the Scandalous CLUB :

B E I N G,

*A Weekly History of Nonsense, Impertinence,
Vice and Debauchery.*

THE Proceedings of the Society with the Newf-writers of the Town, having been too long to be included in our last, we proceed to give you a further Account of them according to Promise.

The Author of the *London Post* was the next in Order to be Examind; and the first Thing Charg'd upon him was, That in the Paper of *February 15. 1703.* he tells the World,

The Dutch had put some Forces into Italy to prevent the French from Repairing their Lines in Flanders.

The Club ask'd the Author what Place this *Italy* was? He told them he did not well know, but he suppos'd 'twas a Garrison Town near the Frontiers about *Namure*, or that side of the Country—. This Answer being mark'd down, the Clerk read on.

Feb. 18. They write from Parma, by way of the Neutral Countries, That the Dutcheffs of Burgundy is very ill of a great Belly-----.

This being transpos'd to *England*, 'twas resolv'd by the Society that it appear'd to be something like this that follows. They write from *Tunbridge*, by the way of *Edinburgh*, that the Duke of *Ormond* was safe arrived at *Dublin*.

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There were several other Charges of this Nature lay against this Author; but upon his humble Acknowledgment of his own Ignorance, and promising the Club that he would Dismiss his Writer, and put it into a better Hand, the Matter was Adjourn'd; and Reformation being the End of the Society, he was Excus'd and Dismiss'd upon Parol for fourteen Days Probation.

The *Post Boy* and his crowd of Originals came next in Order.

Post Boy Feb. 17. This Clause appear'd to be Printed.

There was a Resolution taken by the Contradiction of *Seville*, concerning the *Affairs of the West Indies*.

The Charge struck them all Dumb, but Honest ——— and He, being a little Dogmatic, told them, 'twas Right enough; and there was such a Council at *Seville*, and he'd prove it.

His Authorities were produc'd, and being Examined, it appear'd he was a little Out; that there was such a thing as the Chamber of the Contradiction of *Seville*; but as for Contradiction it was not to be found but in himself; so he was Entred in the Book of B——ds, Number 52.

The next Charge upon them was in the same Paper, where the World is told, *A Courier Arriv'd at Bagnols in France, with a Pacquet for the Mayor of the Town*.

Upon this they were ask'd, If they knew there was any such thing as a Mayor in any Town in *France*, or any Magistrate call'd by that Name?

Being thus Silenc'd again, they were Noted in the Book of Ignorance, Fol. 2: and Order'd the next time, in a like Case, to say, *To the Principal Magistrate of the Town*.

The Third Charge against them was, That the Duke of *Berwick* was pass'd thro' *Lyons* in his way to *Bayonne*, in order to pass into *Spain*.

As to this they were ask'd, where the Duke began his Journey; this they readily Answer'd was from *Verfailles*, where he took his leave of the King.

Then they were ask'd, If *Lyons* lay in the Road from *Paris* to *Bayonne*? And they readily Answer'd, *They suppos'd it might*. But being shown the Maps, that *Lyons* was in the Road

Road from *Paris* to *Bayonne* just as much as *York* is in the Road from *London* to *Plymouth*, They had not one Word to say; so they were Recorded in the Roll of Impertinence, Fin'd 100 Ream of Wast-paper, and bound to stand two Hours gazing at the next Old Woman that happens to stand in the Pillory.

The further Proceedings of the Society are referr'd to our next.

Advertisements are taken in at Reasonable Rates by J. Matthews, in Pilkington Court in Little Britain.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

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Printed for the Booksellers of *London* and *Westminster*. 1704